

Message Text

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S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT BILL MCallISTER PAGE SEVEN BYLINER,
WASHINGTON POST, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, HEADED: "RHODESIAN
STANCE HIT BY REAGAN."

2. RONALD REAGAN SAID TODAY THAT HE FEARS THAT A U.S.
PLEDGE TO SUPPORT BLACK RULE IN RHODESIA IS MISDIRECTED
AND MIGHT ENCOURAGE VIOLENCE IN THAT WHITE-RULED AFRICAN
COUNTRY.

3. AT A NEWS CONFERENCE HERE, THE FORMER CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR SAID SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER'S
STATEMENT TUESDAY MIGHT ENCOURAGE MORE "ACTIVITY" IN
RHODESIA. LATER IN THE NEWS CONFERENCE HE SAID HE MEANT
BY THAT MORE "VIOLENCE."

4. EARLIER IN THE DAY, REAGAN WAS QUOTED AS BEING EVEN
HARsher IN HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE U.S. PLEDGE. A UNITED
PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTER WALKING ALONGSIDE REAGAN AS
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HE LEFT A RALLY AT A SHOPPING CENTER IN ALBANY, 200 MILES

SOUTH OF HERE, QUOTED REAGAN AS SAYING TO A WOMAN:

5. "GOING OVER THERE (RHODESIA) AND ENCOURAGING THE SIDE THAT ADVOCATES BLOODSHED IS A MISTAKE. I'M AFRAID WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A MASSACRE."

6. REAGAN WAS WALKING ALONG A LINE OF WELL-WISHERS AT THE SHOPPING CENTER AND WAS OUT OF EARSHOT OF MOST REPORTERS WHEN HE MADE THE REMARKS. A REAGAN AIDE, ASKED LATER TO VERIFY THE STATEMENT, SAID THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE "DOESN'T RECALL SAYING THAT," BUT STANDS BY HIS NEWS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON RHODESIA.

7. AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE, REAGAN CRITICIZED KISSINGER'S AFRICAN JOURNEY, SAYING THAT KISSINGER HAD ERRED BY AVOIDING A FORMAL VISIT TO RHODESIA. THAT CRITICISM IS SIMILAR TO ONE SOUTH AFRICAN PREMIER IAN SMITH RAISED ABOUT KISSINGER'S MISSION.

8. REAGAN SAID, "THERE IS NO BASIC DISAGREEMENT OVER THE EVENTUAL NEED FOR MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA," BUT NOTED THAT SOME AFRICAN LEADERS INSIST THAT A WAR WITH SMITH'S WHITE-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN.

9. REAGAN, MAKING HIS SECOND SWING INTO GEORGIA IN HIS CAMPAIGN FOR VOTES IN THE STATE'S PRIMARY NEXT TUESDAY, REPEATEDLY STRUCK OUT AT MR. FORD'S FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES. THESE ARE SUBJECTS THAT PROVED POPULAR WITH AUDIENCES IN ALBANY, AN AGRICULTURAL CENTER, AND COLUMBUS, AN ARMY TOWN.

10. IN ATLANTA REAGAN IN EFFECT TOOK CREDIT FOR PUSHING MR. FORD TO SEEK HIGHER DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS. "I THINK THAT WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING IS BEARING SOME FRUIT," HE SAID. MR. FORD WOULD PROBABLY HAVE CUT THE DEFENSE BUDGET "BY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IF I HAD NOT BEEN SAYING WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING," REAGAN SAID.

11. BUT REAGAN STOUTLY REFUSED TO BUDGE FROM HIS STRONG CRITICISM OF MR. FORD'S DEFENSE POLICIES, AND SAID HE

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COULD "SUBSTANTIATE EVERYTHING I HAVE SAID," LARGELY WITH STATEMENTS FROM FORD SUBORDINATES. "I DIDN'T GET MY FACTS AND FIGURES OUT OF A CRYSTAL BALL," HE REPEATEDLY TOLD HIS AUDIENCES.

12. AND MR. FORD, HE SAID, IS NOT INFALLIBLE IN HIS DEFENSE PRONOUNCEMENTS. "I DON'T THINK HIS 20 MONTHS IN OFFICE HAVE MADE HIM AN EXPERT ON EVERYTHING CONCERNED

WITH DEFENSE," REAGAN SAID.

13. IN A SPEECH TO A JOINT MEETING OF A CIVITAN LLVW
AND KIWANIS CLUB IN COLUMBUS, REAGAN RECEIVED STRONG

APPLAUSE WHEN HE CHARGED THAT FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY
JAMES R. SCHLESINGER WAS FIRED "BECAUSE HE WAS TRYING TO
TELL THE PEOPLE THE TRUTH."

14. THE TRUTH, REAGAN ASSURED HIS AUDIENCES IN COLUMBUS
YESTERDAY, IS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS BECOMING A SECOND-
RATE MILITARY POWER. HE INVOKED STATEMENTS BY SEN. HERMAN
E. TALMADGE (D-GA.) TO BUTTRESS HIS CLAIM AND MADE APPEALS
AT ALMOST EVERY STOP FOR DEMOCRATS AND INDEPENDENTS TO
VOTE FOR HIM IN THE STATE'S MAY 4 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY.

15. SAM TATE, REAGAN'S GEORGIA CHAIRMAN, SAID HE BELIEVES
REAGAN SHOULD DRAW HALF THE VOTE IN THE PRIMARY AND THAT
HE IS LEADING MR. FORD IN ALL BUT THE STATE'S 5TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT. THAT DISTRICT INCLUDES FULTON COUNTY AND
PART OF ATLANTA AND IS CONSIDERED LIBERAL BY GEORGIA
STANDARDS. (END TEXT.) SISCO

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